

## **SECTION 4 - PROJECT NARRATIVE**

### **A. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This subgrant application will focus its efforts to improve the program's crisis response to victims of violent crime by offering face to face crisis counseling, emotional support and guidance to assist victims in dealing with the impacts of a crime. With a quicker response time to victims by providing support, information, referral and advocacy, victims can regain their physical, emotional, social and economic well-being by means of intervention and advocacy. Daily coordination and communication with the City Police Department, Child Evaluation Center coordinator, DPHHS social workers, and CNADA community advocates, as well as monthly contact with the neighboring County Attorneys and law enforcement agencies, will improve the crime victims' accessibility to services especially those living in remote areas.

The program's full-time assistant will continue to provide victims of violent crimes, particularly the crimes of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, and victims of assault with a variety of services and information, including assistance in seeking available crime victim compensation benefits, information about their case, the role of the victim and witness in the criminal justice process, what they can expect from the system, as well as what the system expects from them. Victims will also be informed of and referred to the various community services available to help them deal with the impacts of a crime.

These same services will be offered and available to the surrounding counties of Carter, Fallon, Garfield, and Powder River.

To address these problems the following objectives will be met, and the following outcomes gained:

#1 Problem and Solution: Providing direct services to elderly crime victim clients. Victim Assistant is a team member of Adult Protective Services and will be aware of any victim in need of services.

Objective: To provide 4 senior citizen victims of physical abuse or financial harm support services, during the course of the fiscal year, that address their economic and emotional needs as soon as possible after the crime occurs.

Outcome: Eliminate or significantly reduce the time period between when a crime is reported to law enforcement and when services and personal contact with victim begins to improve the victim's willingness to cooperate with the criminal justice system.

#2 Problem and Solution: Victim's of domestic violence willingness to cooperate with the criminal justice process, after a bad experience. Have one-on-one contact with victim continually until disposition of the case.

Objective: Each quarter, assist 2 victims of repeated partner/family member assault by responding to their safety, financial and support needs throughout the prosecutorial phase.

Outcome: Increase prosecution/conviction rates and restore the victim's faith in the criminal justice system.

#3 Problem and Solution: Overlooking children victims of crime by having majority of contact with the parent(s). Need to provide initial and on-going contact and offer them the appropriate direct services given to other crime victims, by giving a child an opportunity to talk about events and express feelings in a safe environment, by building alliances with

parents, and by working effectively with child protective services and other community resources.

Objective: Personally contact 3 children of incest and child molestation to assess their needs and make appropriate referrals to agencies for services within the fiscal year.

Outcome: Recognize children have a voice, to reduce the severity of the consequences of the victimization.

The total projected cost to maintain the program for fiscal year 2006-07 is \$44,059.00. The assistant's position, and only program employee, provides the varied direct services to victims, to meet these specific outlined goals and objectives. The personnel expense includes a 3 % cost of living increase, plus all county fringe benefits. The estimated operating expenses remain the same as last year.

Custer County has again agreed to provide a 20 % hard-cash match for this project, plus absorb all general operating expenses and travel costs associated with the program. The City of Miles City (Miles City Police Department) has generously agreed to provide the program with office space, local telephone services, and internet access at no additional cost to the program.

## **SECTION 4 - PROJECT NARRATIVE (SUBSECTION B-F)**

### **B. NEEDS STATEMENT**

Since 1996 this program has provided direct assistance to -victims of crime, maintaining an average of 120 victims being served each year. The community's size has seen little change, but crime rate is constant, and there is never a shortage of crime victims. (See PDQ reports attachment #1 and #2)

**Target Population:** The program continues to give priority consideration to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, and physically assaulted victims. Program will also focus on elderly victims, developmentally disabled victims and children victims to domestic violence. Program will continue to serve all victims offelony crimes, including property crimes, and violent misdemeanor crimes prosecuted by the County Attorney. Program's daily caseload average is 45 to 50 cases.

Currently, Custer county has 10 registered violent offenders (9 men & 1 woman) and 17 registered sexual offenders (16 men & 1 woman) living within Miles City. (See DOJ Registered Offenders attachment #3) As of February 1, 2006, the 16th Judicial District's Adult Probation/Parole office is currently supervising 53 offenders living in Custer County, 19 of which have committed violent/sexual crimes. (See Officer's caseload list attachment #4) In 2005, Custer County Attorney filed 68 new felony cases in District Court (reported by office of County Attorney).

Rural eastern Montana will continue to offer significant challenges to law enforcement agencies, advocates, prosecutors, services agencies, and courts in providing assistance to victims of crime because of lack of resources and funding cuts. However the forming of

multidisciplinary teams to respond to victims, share resources, track cases and clients, and investigate cases has provided a timely and appropriate response to this challenge. This program recognizes the need for, and value of, collaboration with other disciplines, agencies, and systems. And, will continue working to promote the coordination and teamwork needed to ensure a response to minimize additional trauma to victims. Assistant is currently a member of the Child Protection Team, Adult Protection Services, Child Evaluation Center, Coordinated Community Response Team, and Foster Care Review committee.

### **C. GOALS**

Provide effective response to women and children who have suffered physical abuse and/or sexual abuse, children who witness domestic violence, elderly individuals, and victims of violent crimes in Custer County and surrounding rural counties by providing timely services to crime victims, by responding to their safety and support needs throughout the prosecutorial phase, and making personal contact to assess their needs and make appropriate referrals to agencies and services.

### **D. OBJECTIVES**

To provide 4 senior citizen victims of physical abuse or financial harm, each fiscal year, support services that address their physical, economic, and emotional needs.

Each quarter, assist 2 victims and their children of repeated partner/family member assault by responding to their safety, financial and support needs throughout the prosecutorial phase.

Personally contact 3 children victims of incest and child molestation, within the fiscal year, to assess their needs and make appropriate referrals to agencies for services.

## E. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

<i>OBJECTIVE #1</i>	To provide 4 senior citizen victims of physical abuse or financial harm support services that address their physical, economic and emotional needs.
TIME LINE	Start: July 1, 2006 End: June 30, 2007
HOW	Victim Assistant will help senior citizen with compensation claims, make referrals to police community service program to address their personal and home security and explain thoroughly court procedures.
RESOURCES	Adult Protective Services team consisting of DPHHS social worker, police officer, public health nurse, Medicaid waiver case manager, county attorney, EMI representative, home health care, assisted living manager, and victim assistant.
COSTS	Personnel Salary
<i>OBJECTIVE #2</i>	To assist 2 victims of repeated PFMA by responding to their safety, financial and support needs throughout the prosecutorial phase.
TIMELINE	Quarterly: July 1, 2006 to September 30, 2006; October 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006; January 1, 2007 to March 31, 2007; April 1, 2007 to June 30, 2007
HOW	Victim Assistant will work to prevent continual threats by defendant, assist in procuring order of protection, develop safety plan, refer to attorney for child custody/divorce issues, intervene with employer if necessary, and assist with job search.
RESOURCES	Collaboration with local community advocates, county attorney, justice of the peace, local attorneys, job service.
COSTS	Personnel Salary
<i>OBJECTIVE #3</i>	Personally contact 3 children victims of incest and child molestation to assess their needs and make appropriate referrals to agencies for services.
TIME LINE	Start: July 1, 2006 End: June 30, 2007
HOW	Assistant will make initial contact with parents to arrange meeting in

	their home.
RESOURCES	Child & Family Services, Mental Health Center, Holy Rosary Health Center, Custer Network Against Domestic Abuse, Child Evaluation Center
COSTS	Personnel Salary

#### F. EVALUATION AND INTERNAL ASSESSMENT

Data will be collected using the mandatory PDQ database application provided by the Montana Board of Crime Control. Summary statistics relating to victims, county, type of crime, and services provided will be entered on a weekly basis by volunteer.

Documentation will be made to verify contact times and dates with victims. Data collected will confirm when victim contact is made, for comparison against when the crime was committed, and outcome of PFMA prosecutions.

Case lists are updated weekly to track all open cases handled by the Victim/Witness Assistant. These list are also provided to the County Attorney, Deputy County Attorney and investigating officers. List states defendant's name, investigating officer, prosecuting attorney, defense counsel, court handling case, crimes charged, case status, ie hearing dates, etc., and whether victim has been notified. (see attachment #5)

#### G. SUSTAINABILITY/FUTURE FUNDING PLAN

MBCC's requested share of the project's budget is **\$23,120.00**. Applicant has requested the same amount as was awarded to the program in the previous four years!

Custer County's share of project budget stated is a hard-cash match. All operating expenses and travel expenses will be absorbed directly through budget of the County Attorney **and are not** reflected in this project budget. The total projected cost to maintain the assistant's position at last year's hourly wage, plus a 3 % cost of living increase, and

fringe benefits is \$39,034. Requested operating expenses, travel, etc. will be \$5025.00. Custer County will provide 47.5% of the project's total budget. Last year's share for the County was at 46%.

The County Attorney's mandated statutory requirements has continually provided a good argument for the County Commissioners to provide monies to the program. (See attachment #6 County Budget Report 2005-06)

#### **H. ATTACHMENTS**

Research documentation: #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6 Job description #7